RAJYA SABHA

Wednesday, the 4th December, 1996/13th Agrahayana, 1918 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock, **The Deputy Chairman** *in the Chair.*

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Question No. 181...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI GYAN RANJAN: Madam, Question No. 181....*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Madam, where is the Minister of Surface Transport ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: There is no Surface Transport Minister in the House...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Madam, the Minister of Surface Transport is missing. The Government is taking this House very lightly.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Madam, it is very unfortunate...*(Interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: All of you, please sit down. Let me handle the situation...*(interruptions)*...

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Madam, a Cabinet meeting is going on. The Minister would be coming to the House in another five minutes.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Madam, the House should be adjourned till the Minister comes...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Madam, the whole Cabinet is coming...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Madam, the hon. Minister should apologise to the House for his absence when his name was called. He should apologise to the House.

विपक्ष के नेता, (श्री सिकन्दर बख्त): सदर साहिबा,.....**(व्यवधान)**....

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay. After all, he is a former Member of this House. Let us be kind to him. Mr. Minister, you should apologise to the House because you were not present when your name was called.

SHRI T.G. VENKATARAMAN: Madam, I am rushing from a Cabinet meeting. However, I apologise to the House for my absence in the House when my name was called.

श्री सुशील कुमार संभाजीराव शिन्दे: मैडम, बख्त साहब कह रहे हैं— "वो आए हमारे घर, खुदा की रहमत है" ...**(व्यवधान)**...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, don't repeat it next time ...*(Interruptions)*...

AN HON. MEMBER: Madam, he is a Member of this House ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now he is not a Member of this House....*(Interruptions)*...

Mr. Minister, I had already called Question No. 181. Please give your reply.

World Bank Loan for Road Projects in Bihar

*181. SHRI GYAN RANJAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Bihar has recently, submitted any proposal to the Central Government for road projects in the State for World Bank Loan; and

(b) if so, the present position in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A proposal containing list of roads totalling 3100 kms. for being upgraded has been furnished by the State

Government of Bihar who are undertaking the necessary pre-feasibility studies for being appraised by the World Bank.

उपसभापति: सप्लीमेंटरी पूछिए। ...(व्यवधान).. आप भी हाऊस में जरा आया कीजिए थोड़ा ज्यादा।

श्री ज्ञान रंजन: जी, मैडम। मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि छोटा नागपुर, संथाल परगना क्षेत्र में 60 ब्लॉक जो विश्व बैंक से लिया गया है, वह विगत दो वर्षों से विलंब से चल रहे हैं। इसके लिए कौनसे अधिकारी जिम्मेदार हैं और सरकार ने इस संबंध में कौनसी कार्यवाही की है? यह जो विश्व बैंक का पैसा वापस चला जाएगा, इसके लिए कौन जिम्मेवार हैफ मंत्री महोदय से मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं।

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN: Madam Deputy Chairman, there is a general criterion for selection of roads by the lending agencies. Moreover, the hon. Member has asked about rural roads which is not the subject-matter of the question. Therefore, there is no delay in that and we are not responsible for that.

श्री ज्ञान रंजन: महोदया, मैंने सड़कों के बारे में यह सवाल पूछा है और हमें 369 करोड़ रूपया विश्व बैंक ने छोटा नागपुर, परगना की 60 प्रखंड के लिए दिया है, उसका काम दो वर्ष विलम्ब से शुरू किया गया है। तो मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि इसके लिए कौन जिम्मेदार है और जो पैसा वापिस चला जाएगा उसके लिए कौन रिस्पांसिबल होगा? मंत्री महोदय यह बताने का कष्ट करें, यह सड़क से ही संबंधित प्रश्न है।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is about Chhota Nagpur and Santhal, Mr. Minister.

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN: Madam, I want to say that he has not understood my reply. Rural roads belong to the Rural Ministry. I can get the information from the State and then I can place it before the House.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay. Let me explain.

वह जो जवाब दे रहे हैं परहेप्स वह आपकी समझ में नहीं आया। वे यह कह रहे हैं कि आपने जो संथाल, परगना के बारे में देहाती सड़कों के बारे मे सवाल का जवाब मांगा है, तो जो रूरल सड़कें हैं, गांव की सड़कें हैं, वह रूरल मिनिस्ट्री से ताल्लुक रखती हैं, उनके मंत्रालय से उनका कोई संबंध नहीं है। ..(व्यवधान).. आप बैठिए। Let me explain to him.

श्री ज्ञान रंजन: यह बात गलत है क्योंकि मैंने विश्व बैंक से संबंधित ग्रामीण सड़कों के निर्माण का काम वहां पर किया जा रहा है जो बिहार सरकार के अधीन विश्व बैंक परियोजना के नाम से, बिहार विकास पठारी योजना के नाम से है और जिसके अंतर्गत गांवों में सड़कों के निर्माण का काम किया जा रहा है जंगली क्षेत्र में। यहां पर 369 करोड़ रूपया विश्व बैंक ने उनको आबंटित किया है और रोड का काम दो वर्ष विलम्ब से चल रहा है। तो मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि इसके लिए कौन अधिकारी दोषी हैं। उन पर क्या कार्रवाई की गई है और अगर बिहार सरकार दोषी है तो उस संबंध में भारत सरकार ने क्या कार्रवाई की है?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Perhaps the translation is not correct. What he is saying is that he is asking for the loan that has come from the World Bank.

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN: I understand that, Madam. *(Interruptions)*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, but I am not sure about the translation. It is connected with roads. Now there are two types of roads. Are you only connected with highways or with local roads also? *(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN: Madam, the information furnished to me in this. The Government of Bihar has got the loan directly from the World Bank. So, this responsibility is only with the Bihar State. *(Interruptions)* They got it directly.

SHRI AJIT P.K. JOGI: Madam, the hon. Minister cannot escape from his responsibility like this. *(Interruptions)* It relates to him. He should reply to the question. *(Interruptions)*

श्री ज्ञान रंजन: मंत्री महोदय का जवाब गलत है। ..(व्यवधान)..

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let him first clarify. **ऐऐऐ(व्यवधान)... आप बैठिए जोगी जी।** Let him clarify. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJIT P.K. JOGI: Madam, he is

just getting away by saying that it is not connected with his Ministry. He cannot say that. *(Interruptions)* It is connected with his Ministry.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I do not know whether it is connected or not connected. *(Interruptions)* Never mind, it is connected with India.

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN: Madam, the Government of Bihar has got the loan directly from the World Bank. Therefore, the Ministry has nothing to do with it. We have just to supervise it. I can call for a report and then give a reply to my friend. That is all I can say.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Can a State Government get a loan directly?

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN: Yes.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: How can it? *(Interruptions)* Madam, I want to raise a point on this. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJIT P.K. JOGI: No, Madam. It has to be routed through the Central Government. *(Interruptions)* How can he say that?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: One minute, please. *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Madam, how can money go directly to a State Government without the Central Government being involved in it? *(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN: Madam, my submission is that this is the information that I got from the officers.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Madam, the officers are misleading him then. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI: Why should officers be brought in by the hon. Minister? He need not disclose his source of information to us. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJIT P.K. JOGI: We are not going to put questions to officers ...*(Interruptions)*... He cannot get away like this ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: One minute please ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN: Madam, I am not getting away from any situation. Madam, I stand corrected. What the hon. Member said, is correct ...*(Interruptions)*... I am the responsible person for this. It is only through our recommendations the State Government is getting the loan. I will collect the information asked for by my friend and give the same to him. I will also place it in the House.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Then there is no question of putting other supplementaries. He has no information with him. What can you ask from the Minister? ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री जनार्दन यादव: मैडम, मंत्री जी तैयार होकर नहीं आए है। बिहार में सड़क परियोजना हेतु विश्व बैंक से कितना ऋण प्राप्त हुआ है, यह सवाल पूछा गया है।

SHRI AJIT P.K. JOGI: Please postpone it for the next week.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am postponing it for the next week. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI AJIT P.K. JOGI: Kindly postpone it for the next week, and let the Minister come prepared then.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: One second, please. If the Minister says that he has no information in the matter, then there is no point in putting any question ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Madam, it is a policy question.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, he does not have any information on policy ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Madam, please allow me to put one supplementary ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: How can I understand you, if all of you speak together? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Madam, I am putting a specific question. We know the procedure. No State Government can get money directly without the Government of India being involved.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is what I asked from him.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: I want to know from the Minister whether there has been a change in policy since they came.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: I want to know whether the States have a right to get money from wherever they want. Madam, this is the neglected Jharkand area for which the Government of Bihar is responsible. The Bihar Government does not know where the money has gone. Half of the money that is coming is being eaten up in one scam or the other. ...*(Interruptions)*... Madam, even this money has gone into somebody's pocket and they don't know where the money is. I charge the Government of Bihar with having misused this money. The Bihar Government has eaten it up as part of their scams. That is why they don't know where the money has gone. You tell us as to where the money is ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Have some order in the House.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Road scam, medicine scam, everything is there ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN: Madam, I want to submit one thing.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Order in the House, please ...*(Interruptions)*.

डा.वाई. लक्ष्मी प्रसाद: स्कैम की जिम्मेदार तो कांग्रेस पार्टी है ...(**व्यवधान**)...

श्री रामदेव भंडारी: इसका इस प्रश्न से कोई ताल्लुक नहीं है ...(**व्यवधान**)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Bhandariji, let the Minister answer.

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN: Madam, there has been no change in the policy. Whatever information the Member wanted, I have already submitted. I don't have any further information. Whatever further information is required, I will collect it and place it before the House ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay. The question is transferred to next week ...*(Interruptions)*...

Now, no further discussion on that. If you want to discuss it, then you give a separate notice for that ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI AJIT P.K. JOGI: Madam, have you postponed it for the next week?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, I have postponed it for the next week.

Report of the National Transport Policy Committee

*182. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a National Transport Policy Committee was set up by his Ministry;

(b) if so, the details of the terms and reference to the Committee; and

(c) whether the said Committee has submitted its report, if so, the broad recommendations of the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the table of Rajya Sabha.

Statement

(a) The National Transport Policy Committee was set up by Planning Commission vide Government